



Disabled in Norwood Payneham and St Peters

Newsletter 11 - June 2014

NEW LOGO

You may have noticed the new logo on this newsletter. To me it symbolises the fact that people who are disabled in some way are part of the wider community and that we need to work together to achieve a society in which we can all live the best lives possible.

NEWS

I wish there were more, but here goes.

Goods on the Footpath

As reported in the last newsletter we have been waiting since 2011 for a report from Council on merchandise on footpaths. The last word on this due date was April, but is now July. We can only wait in hope.

It is of vital importance that our footpaths are clear for an appropriate distance next to the building line, both for people with a variety of disabilities and for the general public.

This is up to Council to establish appropriate rules and to **enforce** them.

Access and Inclusion Plan

Still waiting!

Don Pyatt Hall Stairs

Following a meeting in the hall after which a gentleman with a walking frame nearly fell down the stairs instead of gliding gently down the ramp, I have contacted Council about the stairs. I note that they were apparently built

before Disability Discrimination Act requirements came into force.

I was immediately contacted about this and they are looking at lighting which may be inadequate and TGSIs (Tactile Ground Surface Indicators) as mechanisms to improve safety there for everyone.

Hopefully finances will not prove a problem as has been suggested.

DISABILITY FORUM

At the end of April, the Norwood Residents Association Inc. conducted a forum on disability. This was an attempt to raise the awareness of disability in the community and I thank them for that.

Members of NRA and Disabled in Norwood, Payneham and St Peters were invited as well as traders on The Parade to whom I had personally hand-delivered an invitation. There were a few I had to miss because they were up steps and behind closed doors and had no letter box. How do they do business?

Congratulations to the one trader who actually came (and my apologies if I missed anyone).

My thanks to Steven Marshall, our local member, who did make time to come.

Rick Neagle, President of D4D, spoke about the National Disability Insurance Scheme, a scheme much needed particularly by young people who might be severely disabled.

I later started discussing the nature of disability, disability in the community and

what the community can do about it. Unfortunately because of time constraints it was not possible to finish that discussion, so I will do that here.

In the lead-up to the forum, Rick had chided me about the use of the term “disabled person”, pointing out that “person with a disability” is more appropriate. Shortly after I found an article written by a young English woman. I found it valuable. She uses a wheelchair because of osteogenesis imperfecta.

She said:

“I’M NOT A “PERSON WITH A DISABILITY”: I’M A DISABLED PERSON

I was about 17 when I learned about the social model and it radically changed how I thought about my own body.

You probably think I’m either delusional or in denial. I’m not, I just have a real problem with the phrase “person with a disability” and the notion of “having a disability.”

I am disabled. More specifically, I am disabled by a society that places social, attitudinal and architectural barriers in my way. This world we live in disables me by treating me like a second-class citizen because I have a few impairments -- most obviously a mobility impairment.

The medical model -- the idea that a person has a disability -- is the dominant notion in our society. It’s the idea that a person is prevented from functioning in our society by their body or brain and it’s just that person’s tough luck. If they can’t blend into this world, it’s not the world’s problem.

The social model is the way I prefer to view the world. It’s the idea that a person with an impairment or illness is disabled by the society we live in because of all the barriers that are put in our way.

Society disables me.

The main argument in favor of the phrase “person with a disability” is that it’s “person first.” Whaaaat? I have been told that I’m wrong for calling myself “disabled” rather than a “person with a disability.” Unsurprisingly my response either tends to be about as long as this article or a short string of expletives.”

The full article was very powerful and drew my attention to the fact that we need to make certain that once we set foot outside the front door, by whatever means, that we should see our world is structured in such a way that everyone can access it. We do not need barriers, whether they be social, attitudinal or architectural.

To the extent we can influence this in our own local environment, the better our world will be.

THOSE SCOOTERS AGAIN

DPTI has established a Motorised Mobility Scooter Reference Group to develop a package to inform people who may be considering getting a mobility scooter. This will assist such people in both country and city areas in the form of workshops which will discuss the matters that should be considered before the purchase of a scooter.

I have been asked to join the group as a “scooter user”, an opportunity I welcome. I hope a lot of the work I have done in the last couple of years in researching scooter use and related disability matters will be of benefit, not only in Norwood, Payneham and St Peters but more widely.

users.adam.com.au/marcia/DisabilityNPSP.html

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